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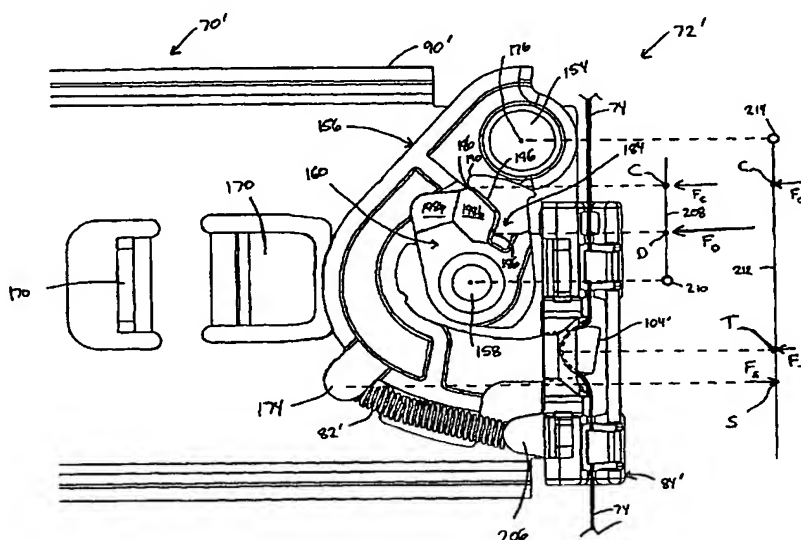
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INTERLOCK MECHANISM FOR LATERAL FILE CABINETS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to interlocks for file cabinets and the like which generally prevent more than one drawer from being opened at a given time. The interlocks include a cable which is changeable from a slack condition to a taut condition. In the taut condition, the interlocks prevent the associated drawer from being opened. In the slack condition, the interlock allows the associated drawer to be opened. The interlocks may be used in conjunction with a lock that selectively changes the tension in the cable from a slack condition to a taut condition and vice versa. The interlocks may be constructed to exert a tension on a cable that is independent of the pulling force exerted on a locked drawer. Alternatively, the interlocks may be constructed to exert a force on the cable that is a small fraction of the pulling force exerted on a locked drawer.

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/38001

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 E05B65/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E05B A47B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 799 638 A (FAIKS F) 26 March 1974 (1974-03-26)	1,2,4,5
A	column 5, line 7 - column 6, line 8; figures 3-6 column 3, line 34 - line 45; figure 9	3,15
X	US 5 062 678 A (WESTWINKEL FLORIAN) 5 November 1991 (1991-11-05)	1,2,4,5
A	cited in the application column 5, line 32 - column 6, line 30; figures 1-3	8,9,15
A	US 5 199 774 A (HEDINGER PAUL R ET AL) 6 April 1993 (1993-04-06)	1
	the whole document	
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 October 2004

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14 10. 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/38001

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 94 07 911 U (LEHMANN GMBH & CO KG MARTIN) 18 August 1994 (1994-08-18)	1,2,4-6, 10-13, 16-27, 37-42, 44-46, 51,54,55
A	the whole document	3,29, 57-60, 62-64
X	DE 296 22 589 U (LEHMANN VERTRIEBSGESELLSCHAFT) 24 April 1997 (1997-04-24)	1,2,4-6, 10-13, 16-27, 37-42, 44-46, 51-55
A	the whole document	3,15,29, 57-60, 62-64
A	US 5 176 436 A (MITCHELL TERRY L) 5 January 1993 (1993-01-05) column 5, line 20 - line 58; figures 1-4	1,16,29, 37,44, 49,57,61
A	EP 0 645 512 A (DOM SICHERHEITSTECHNIK) 29 March 1995 (1995-03-29) the whole document	1,16,29, 37,44,57
A	US 5 427 445 A (MITCHELL TERRY L) 27 June 1995 (1995-06-27) column 4, line 36 - line 42; figures 1-5	1,16,29, 37,44,57

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/38001

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-5,8,9,15

Interlock for a drawer, wherein said interlock is solely mounted on a drawer slide member.

2. claims: 6,7,29-36

Locking and interlocking system for a cabinet of drawers comprising two interlocks in communication with two locks.

3. claims: 10-14,16-28,37-64

Interlock for a drawer, wherein a first force exerted on a drawer in the opening direction is translated into a second force exerted against a cable that is less than the first force.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/38001

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